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The Emancipation of the Mediaeval Towns. By A. GIRY AND A. RÉVILLE. Translated from the *Histoire Générale* by PROFESSOR F. G. BATES AND PAUL E. TITSWORTH, of Alfred University. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1907. Pp. 69. 50 cents.

This modest little volume belongs to the series of monographs entitled "Historical Miscellany," and edited by Professor Earle W. Dow, of Michigan University. It is the translation of an extract from the monumental French work edited by Professors Lavissee and Rambaud. The authors of this little treatise on the towns of the Middle Ages are two of the foremost historians of France.

Owing to the dearth in English of accurate works on this subject the pamphlets should be of value to students of the Middle Ages. The importance of the mediaeval towns can hardly be overemphasized. They were a powerful agency in overthrowing the feudal system. They have been called the cradles of modern liberty. They were centers of industry and commerce, as well as of art and literature.

The problems involved in tracing their genesis and development are so complex, the literature bearing on the subject that has grown up in European countries so vast and much of the source material so inaccessible to Americans, that we must as yet depend largely upon the work of foreign scholars. The translation of this extract is therefore to be welcomed. The only regret one has is that so little space is devoted to the Italian, English, and German towns. However, on the French towns the book is very explicit and gives much valuable information. It will prove of most value to college students but should find a place also in high schools and academies as a reference work and in supplementary reading.

GEORGE L. SCHERGER

ARMOUR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Outlines of Ancient History. By WILLIAM C. MOREY, PH.D., D.C.L. New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago: American Book Co., 1906. Pp. 550. \$1.50.

This volume has been prepared with reference to the report of the Committee of Seven and is intended for a year's work in ancient history. It combines the essentials of the author's *Outlines of Greek History* and his *Outlines of Roman History*. Beginning with a brief introduction that treats of the general character of ancient history, the author takes up the oriental empires, Greece, Rome, and the early Middle Ages, carrying the account down to the year 800 A. D.

The book is one of the best texts on the subject intended for the use of high schools and academies. The language is clear, careful references for reading are given at the end of each chapter, while the appendix contains a list of the best books on the entire period covered. The type is clear and the paper good, so that the general appearance of the book is attractive. The relief maps are, in general, well selected, but the conspicuous fault of the book is the lack of larger maps, such as a good map of Greece, Italy, Alexander's Empire, the

Roman Empire, and Europe in the early Middle Ages. It is singular that India and China should not be included among the oriental nations.

The most difficult task in writing a text of this sort is to know what to omit. The author has been quite successful in keeping out of his book non-essentials, but occasionally he brings in material and expressions that might have been left out. It is much better to give an adequate presentation of the most important facts than to furnish a summary of a large number of facts. Undue space has been given to the treatment of Hellenistic culture, to the early legends of Rome, to the origin of Rome, the Samnite Wars, and several other topics. It is to be hoped that in a later edition these defects will be remedied. The value of the book might likewise be increased by removing a few of the many pictures of individuals, which are of relatively little value, and substituting illustrations that will more adequately typify the culture of the peoples treated.

On the whole, the book is of considerable merit and in the hands of a good teacher should yield satisfactory results.

GEORGE L. SCHERGER

ARMOUR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Spanish Correspondence. By E. S. HARRISON, New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1907. Pp. 157.

As the teaching of Spanish ought to be eminently practical and careful attention must be paid to the subject of letter-writing, any new publication along this line should be received most favorably. Recently Henry Holt & Co., New York, have published, under the title of *Spanish Correspondence*, a little textbook by means of which the author, Mr. E. S. Harrison, instructor of Spanish in the Commercial High School, Brooklyn, N. Y., hopes that "the student may be enabled to write an intelligible letter in Spanish on an ordinary business subject."

The book contains much and varied material.

A criticism which may be made is as follows: Why not have the letters written from Spanish or Latin-American commercial houses to American firms and vice-versa? Certainly there will be no commercial correspondence carried on in Spanish between American business firms, besides the author loses through this an excellent opportunity to acquaint the pupil with foreign business affairs, as he has done, for example, in a few letters (Nos. 47, 59, 100, 101, 103). Therefore, instead of ordering *A Ladder of Swords* at Harper Bros., New York (Letter No. 88), and subscribing to *Everybody's Magazine* (Letter No. 9), would it not have been better to give the name of some prominent Spanish publishing house, the name of a good Spanish novel, or of a Spanish or Mexican magazine? Or would it not have been still better to have written a letter to Guatemala, Costa-Rica, Honduras, or Cuba, ordering coffee, bananas, tobacco, cacao, and sugar? The same thing is noticeable in letter No. 12; Messrs. Albert & Co., New York, send to Messrs. Brown, Smith & Co., Buffalo, N. Y., a draft on the Fifth National Bank. This letter would have presented a fine opportunity to give the name of a Spanish, Mexican, or other bank, and to make use of the